

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Election of Inventions

The Examiner has required an election of a single invention for prosecution on the merits. The Examiner has identified the following inventions:

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| Group I | Claims 1-3, 7-8 and 11/1-11/3, 11/7-11/8, |
| Group II | Claims 4-5, 9-10 and 11/4-11/5, 11/9-11/10, |
| Group III | Claims 6 and 11/6. |

The Examiner's position is that the inventions are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The applicants elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-3, 7-8 and 11/1-11/3, 11/7-11/8. Additionally, claim 11 has been amended and new claims 12-15 have been added to eliminate the multiple dependency in claim 11 and maintain the elected subject matter of claim 11. Also, claim 3 has also been amended to provide greater clarity in that claim.

The outstanding Office action was mailed on 25 October 2006. The Examiner set a shortened statutory period for reply of 1 month from the mailing date. This response and amendment is timely filed on or before 27 November 2006, as 25 November 2006 fell on a Saturday. Therefore, no extension of time or accompanying fee is believed to be due in making this response.

By this response and amendment, no claims have been cancelled. Claims 3 and 11 have been amended. New claims 12-15 have been added. Therefore, no additional fees are believed to be due. However, in the event that a fee for the filing of his response is insufficient, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 15-0450.

Respectfully submitted,

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